

C O P Y

*14 September 1960*

Mr. R. W. van de Velde  
Faculty Secretary  
Rockefeller Public Service Awards  
Princeton University  
Princeton, New Jersey

Dear Mr. van de Velde:

I am pleased to nominate Dr. Otto E. Guthe for the Rockefeller Public Service Award. Dr. Guthe is Assistant Director for Research and Reports in the Central Intelligence Agency and in this role heads the principal research organization within the national intelligence community for the production of economic and geographic intelligence on Communist states and on world areas which are the targets of Communist penetration and subversion. Additionally, as Chairman of the interagency Economic Intelligence Committee he coordinates programs of research and analysis of economic intelligence which are carried on by other government agencies engaged in foreign intelligence work.

Dr. Guthe has been in the Federal service continuously since 1935. After periods of service with the Tennessee Valley Authority and the Soil Conservation Service of the Department of Agriculture he joined the Department of State in 1941. Shortly thereafter he was appointed Assistant Chief of the Department's Division of Geography and Cartography. In this latter capacity he participated closely in the development of economic and geographic studies of concern to the Department in its program of forward planning. Immediately after World War II he was designated Chief of the Department's Map Intelligence Division. When he transferred with his group to the newly established Central Intelligence Agency in 1947, the Department arranged for his concurrent service as its Special Assistant for Maps. In this capacity he was responsible for instituting a map procurement and geographic attache program which has become a permanent activity of the Foreign Service. It became necessary for him to relinquish this responsibility in the Department of State when, in 1953, he was appointed to the position he now holds.

Exercising a high order of executive leadership and bringing into play a unique blending of managerial skill and professional expertise, Dr. Guthe has developed this Agency's Office of Research and Reports from a relatively inexperienced and untested organization into a coordinated and efficient team of professional intelligence officers. The reputation won by Dr. Guthe's

staff for the production of economic and geographic intelligence on nations in the Communist orbit is, I believe, unsurpassed within the United States Government, among friendly foreign intelligence services and generally within the academic community of this country.

Despite the obstacles to personnel recruitment imposed by security restrictions and a requirement for professional anonymity, Dr. Guthe has drawn together a group of talented and dedicated economists, geographers, industrial specialists, historians and others in response to the current requirements for intelligence preparedness with which the United States Government is confronted. This group is called upon to produce intelligence on virtually every sector of the Communist economy and the reports developed frequently communicate data of urgent significance for guidance to those at the top governmental level who must make the decisions in foreign and military policy.

At the same time that Dr. Guthe has directed his own organization he has been Chairman of the Economic Intelligence Committee. This Committee, functioning under the United States Intelligence Board, coordinates the production of economic intelligence by the various agencies comprising the intelligence community. Patient and invariably gracious, yet always confident and confidence-inspiring, Dr. Guthe has carried on these responsibilities for interdepartmental coordination with great effectiveness. He has been influential in reducing the previous duplication of tasks among departments and agencies and in establishing higher standards in the quality of economic intelligence reporting throughout the government.

In summary, Dr. Guthe's work is a contribution of the first rank in answer to the need for economic and geographic intelligence for current and long-range planning for the national security. The substantive accomplishments for which he is responsible are of inestimable importance in the decision-making process as it relates to our national policy. Because these accomplishments so definitely reflect his leadership, his wisdom and his profound knowledge, I commend to the Selection Committee Dr. Guthe for the honor of a Rockefeller Public Service Award.

Sincerely,

/s/

Allen W. Dulles  
Director

Attachment:  
Biographic Outline

Originator: /s/ 13 Sep 60  
D/Pers

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BIOGRAPHIC DATA

Dr. Otto Emmor Guthe

I Personal Data

Date of Birth: October 6, 1904

Residence:

Wife: Katherine Arnold Guthe

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II Position Data

Title: Assistant Director for Research and Reports, GS-18  
Central Intelligence Agency  
Washington, D.C.

III Education

1921-22 Heidelberg, Germany

1924-27 University of Michigan, AB - Geology

1927-28 University of Michigan, MA - Geography

1928-33 University of Michigan, Ph.D - Geography

IV Employment

1929-1935 Instructor, Department of Geography, University of Michigan

1935-1937 Geographer, Tennessee Valley Authority

1937-1941 Member of Staff and later Assistant Chief, Division of  
Climatic and Physiographic Research, Soil Conservation  
Service, Department of Agriculture

1941-1947 Assistant Chief, Division of Geography and Cartography,  
Department of State

1947-1953 Chief, Geographic Division, Central Intelligence Agency

1953 to Assistant Director for Research and Reports, Central  
date Intelligence Agency

V Additional Assignments

1943-1945 Vice Chairman of the Division of Geology and Geography,  
National Research Council

- 1945            Advisor to the Secretariat of the United Nations Conference on International Organization at San Francisco
- 1946            Advisor on U. S. Delegation to the Council of Foreign Ministers in London and Paris
- 1951-1953      Vice Chairman of the U.S. Board on Geographic Names
- 1944-1952      U. S. Delegate or Observer to the following international conferences:
- U. S. Delegate, 2nd Pan-American Consultation on Cartography, Rio de Janeiro (August 1944)
  - U. S. Observer, British Commonwealth Survey Officers' Conference, London (August 1947)
  - U. S. Observer, 4th Pan-American Consultation on Cartography, Buenos Aires (October 1948)
  - Delegate to 16th International Geographical Congress, Lisbon (April 1949)
  - U. S. Observer, 1st Pan-American Consultation on Geography, Rio de Janeiro (September 1949)
  - Observer, Portrex Exercise, Caribbean (March 1950)
  - Delegate, Vth General Assembly, Pan American Institute of Geography and History, Santiago, Chile (October 1950)
  - U. S. Observer, British Commonwealth Survey Officers' Conference, London (July 1951)
  - Delegate, Third Pan American Consultation on Geography, Washington, D.C. (July 1952)
  - Delegate, 17th International Geographical Congress, Washington, D. C. (August 1952)
  - Delegate, Vth Pan American Consultation on Cartography, Ciudad Trujillo (October 1952)
- 1956            U. S. member of the Commission of Experts to Investigate the Italo-Yugoslav Boundary

For several years he was an associate member of the Committee on Geophysics and Geography of the Research and Development Board, Office of the Secretary of Defense.

- VI      References      (Officials well acquainted with Dr. Guthe's work and to whom inquiry may be addressed by the Committee on Selection)
- Dr. Wallace W. Atwood, Jr.  
Director of Division of International Relations  
National Academy of Sciences  
Washington, D.C.

Dr. Charles B. Hitchcock  
Director of the American Geographical Society  
156th Street & Broadway  
New York City, New York

Mr. Robert Amory, Jr.  
Deputy Director (Intelligence)  
Central Intelligence Agency  
2430 E Street, N. W.  
Washington, D. C.